

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Loves-Me-Not - Media Messages

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2000076.000

Medium: Online Film

Director: Tony Sutorius

Country of origin: Aotearoa New Zealand

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years, or who are accompanied by a parent or guardian.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Violence and sexual material

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 02 March 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 02 March 2020

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Loves-Me-Not - Media Messages	3:39
Total running time:		3:39

Summary of reasons for decision:

The video comprises a diverse selection of clips that represent various aspects of unhealthy interpersonal relationships. It is intended to be used as an educational tool in a school programme for older teenagers. The video is made up of brief clips from a variety of entertainment media. It contains material from the R18 publications 'Sin City' and 'Grand Theft Auto V', however, the Classification Office consider that this content, removed from its original context, does not warrant an R18 classification. However, the video's unrestricted availability is still likely to be injurious to the public good because of its focus on unhealthy aspects of relationships. Children and younger

teenagers are likely be shocked and disturbed by some of the depictions even though the impact is likely to be limited due to the fleeting manner of the depiction. A higher likelihood of injury to younger audiences arises from the normalisation of violence within personal relationships, the sexualisation and trivialisation of sexual violence and coercion, the way suicide and domestic violence are romanticised and the way stalker behaviour is to some degree encouraged. Older teenagers, who are the intended audience, are more likely to have the maturity to understand these clips in a cultural context and critique them as representations of unhealthy relationships. Therefore a restriction to persons 16 years and over is appropriate for this video. However, the Classification Office considers that because of the education value and purpose of this video it may be made available to people under 16 years with the guidance of parents or other responsible adult to guide them and assist them in interpreting the content. This classification is a reasonable limitation on the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in order to prevent injury to the public good.